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Strength in Unity Banquet, Roxanne Cordonier, Editor

The Greenville County Democratic Party hosted the AJ Whittenberg Strength in Unity Banquet on Sunday, April 2nd. The AJ Whittenberg Strength in Unity Award was posthumously presented to former Greenville County Councilwoman Lottie Beal Gibson. Mrs. Gibson's family members Tim, Ken, Michelle, Gaybriel, Christian Gibson, Peggy Baxter, and Deidre Neighbors accepted the recognition in her memory. The AJ Whittenberg tribute honors a Democrat who has unselfishly contributed to the community by improving it through promoting civil and human rights and encouraging participation in the democratic process regardless of race, gender or national origin. We can think of no finer example of this credo than Lottie Beal Gibson who spent more than fifty years advocating for and representing the rights of her constituents and those who would otherwise have no voice. Mrs. Gibson passed away in December at the age of 86.

Greenville County Democratic Party Chair Kate Franch served as Mistress of Ceremonies for the evening.

The nearly 100 attendees were entertained by the Phillis Wheatley Dwight Woods Repertory Theatre. Among those paying tribute to Mrs. Gibson were SC State Senator Karl Allen, Reverend Flora J. Winestock and Mr. Charles Gardner. The inspirational evening closed with a call to action by the president of Greenville Young Democrats, Jalen Elrod.

Democratic Candidates for Greenville City Council

The Greenville County Democratic Party is proud to support Russell Stall who is running for an at large seat on Greenville City Council, currently held by Gaye Sprague. Russell Stall has deep roots in Greenville and was inspired to run for public office by former Greenville Mayor Max Heller. Stall's platform is focused on affordable housing, public transportation and intentional and sustainable growth. Stall is opposed by Republican businessman John DeWorken.

For more information on Russell Stall or to contribute or volunteer for his campaign click on <http://www.russellstall.com/>

Longtime Greenville City Councilwoman Lillian Brock Flemming is facing opposition in her incumbent campaign. Republican Mat Cotner, a commercial banker, has filed for the District 2 city council seat. Lillian Brock Flemming was first elected to Greenville City Council in 1981. She is a professional employment recruiter for the Greenville County School District, where she was formerly a high school math teacher for 23 years. Mrs. Flemming is a Furman University graduate and is working to bring a third signature city park to the Southernside Community. To find out more about Lillian's campaign click on <https://www.facebook.com/LillianBrockFlemming/>

Only the Greenville County Republican Party will hold a primary on June 13. The general election is November 7.

Chair Message, Greetings Greenville Democrats

It's April already and that means two things at least: Tax Day and the South Carolina Democratic Party State Convention. This year the actual tax day deadline is extended to Tuesday, the 18th. For some of us, the extra time is a gift, for others, it's more of a curse.

The annual set of events that comprise the SCDP Convention, otherwise known as the Dem Weekend, however, will take place as usual at the end of the month on Friday, April 28 and Saturday, April 29 in Columbia. Over those two days, Democratic legislators and elected officials, state party officials and staff, candidates, county party officers, delegates, and alternates, and Democrats from across South Carolina will convene for the purpose of celebrating and commiserating together, conducting state party business, and collectively setting goals.



I invite all Democrats in Greenville County to join the GCDP delegation at the 2017 Dem Weekend events. At Saturday's Convention, anyone not designated as a Delegate or Alternate can sign in as a Guest. This is a great opportunity to learn firsthand how the Democratic Party is organized in South Carolina and the process for determining platform and policy, as well as to meet fellow Democrats from across the state.

What to expect: We are still waiting for the official agenda to be made public, but this is a general schedule based on previous years:

- **Friday** – the Blue Palmetto Dinner, Medallion Conference Center (7309 Garners Ferry Road, Columbia); tickets are \$125 per person and include dinner, keynote speaker, and dancing.
- **Friday** – Rep. Jim Clyburn's World Famous Fish Fry, 7:00 – 11:00pm, Cannon Parking Garage (1227 Taylor Street, Columbia); dinner, music, and dancing; Rep. Clyburn always comes by.
- **Saturday** – SCDP Convention, Medallion Conference Center; plan to arrive by 8:30am to sign in and find a seat before the opening activities.
- In odd-numbered years, the Convention elects the state party Chair and three Vice Chairs for two year terms. According to SCDP Rules, the 1st Vice Chair must be of a gender different from the Chair, the 2nd Vice Chair must be of a race different from the Chair, and the 3rd Vice Chair must be between the ages of 18 and 36 years of age. 2017 candidates for the respective positions are:

<u>Chair</u>	<u>1st Vice Chair*</u>	<u>2nd Vice Chair*</u>	<u>3rd Vice Chair</u>
Cedric Blain-Spain	Beth Addison	Cedric Blain-Spain	Jeni Atchley
Trav Robertson	Justin Bamberg	Jessica Bright	Luke Beadle
Susan Smith	Cedric Blain-Spain	Nicole Caudle	Jerome Rowland
	Jessica Bright	Lessie Price	Scott Thorpe
	Lessie Price	Shelly Roehrs	Roman Vitanza
	Shelly Roehrs	Jerome Rowland	
	Jerome Rowland	Anthony Thompson	
	Anthony Thompson		

*Based on SCDP Rules, several candidates will not know the Vice Chair position for which they are eligible until the Chair is elected (e.g., if a black female were elected Chair, then the 1st Vice Chair must be male and the 2nd Vice-Chair must be of a different race).

- In addition, the Convention will consider recommendations from the SCDP Platform and Resolutions Committee and any other business requiring approval. Awards for Democrat of the Year, Young Democrat of the Year, Democratic Elected Official of the Year, and Democratic County/Local Party of the Year will be presented. And Convention attendees can expect to meet and hear from prominent speakers and candidates for elected public office.
- Only credentialed Delegates from county parties may vote. They will sit in designated County sections in the auditorium to distinguish them from other attendees. Alternates will be assigned the credentials of Delegates who cannot or do not attend on an as needed basis and then sit and vote with their county delegation.

GCDP Delegates should receive convention packets from SCDP soon. Anyone else interested in attending should check the SCDP website for any updates to the schedule of events and more information—scdp.org — or call/email GCDP Headquarters. Some of the GCDP delegation will go down on Friday (a list of hotels near the conference center can be found on the SCDP website) and others will go down for Saturday's Convention only. We hope you will decide to join us.

Kate

Greenville County Democrats Launch NEW Website

www.greenvilledemocrats.com

Our new website...Well, it's happened. We've heard from many of you that our former website was challenging, tough and incomplete. But good news - we've launched our updated website and we hope you're just as excited as we are!

This new site has a cleaned up navigation bar, larger images, an easy-to-use calendar feature (the premier calendar of Upstate events), GCDP news, and a simple volunteer sign-up form. All of these features are making it easier for us to share information with Greenville County!

“What can I do to help?”, Jarrod Wiggins, GCDP Communications Coordinator

It's by far the most asked question presented to any GCDP leader. We get it, we're all upset about the past election and we're ready to hit the ground running for 2017 and 2018 elections. The explosive growth of our Party is exciting (and much needed!) but it's also forcing the Party to grow appropriately and on the right foundation; we need to make sure whatever growth and initiatives we take on are sustainable, well-funded, and organized to ensure this explosive growth turns to maintained involvement across the Party.

But yes, there are many ways you (all of you) can help. One is by assisting our Communications Team in gathering photos from the multitude of events happening every week. Our team can't make every event but we want to capture all events (big or small) to showcase on social media and our website. So, what do we mean when we say 'gathering photos'. It's more than just snapshots of you and the other progressives in attendance posing for a quick pic- we need visually exciting images that can be used to motivate other local Democrats to attend future events.

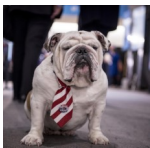
We could lay out a dozen tips for taking great photos and share a handful of apps we use to edit them, but we'll keep it simple this month with 4 easy tips to assist our team in gathering event photos! Keep it Simple: You don't need several people posing, multiple props or signs, and complicated staging. Effective images are usually the simplest ones. Try sticking to a close up of an attendee (please get their permission!), a sign, food or of some GCDP swag.



Lighting is Your Best Friend: Our team can tweak a lot of images in the editing phase but it's impossible to edit a photo flooded with light, or so dark we can't tell what you just captured. Try having the light come from behind you and onto the object/person you are photographing. Also, contrast from light to dark is good and we can capitalize on that in our editing process. Lastly, fluorescent lights are a challenge- try to take photos near a window, if possible!



It's All About Perspective: Mix big and small items in the photo to create an interesting contrast with different perspectives. For example, have one object close to the camera and others in the background. Also, take photos from near the ground or from up high to elevate the theatrics of the photo - you'll feel silly doing it but the pictures will be awesome!



Follow the Rule of Thirds: The main object should be closer to either side, or along the top or bottom, rather than right in the center of the photograph. This is the rule of thirds. One exception: Faces can really show up anywhere in the frame.

Sound challenging? It's really not! Give these tips a shot and look for your photos to appear on our social media pages (Facebook, Twitter & Instagram!) and our website. You can send images you take to gcdp-comms@greenvilledemocrats.com and we'll edit and use what we can!

Greenville High School Democrats Council, Henry Lear, Vice President

The Greenville High School Democrats Council is a new and quickly growing organization. With clubs at Southside, Mauldin, The Fine Arts Center, Greenville Tech Charter High School, and Riverside, we're seeing huge high school involvement. We aim to translate our activism and excitement into city council campaigns in 2017 and the governor's race and races for Congress in 2018, but we're just getting started. We would love to hear from any Greenville Democrat who has connections at other schools, and we'd also like to encourage everyone to like our Facebook page, /GreenvilleHSDems and follow our Instagram at GvilleHSDems. We look forward to making change in our community and bringing the voice of high school students to the table.

Books We Love April 2017, Roxanne Cordonier, Editor

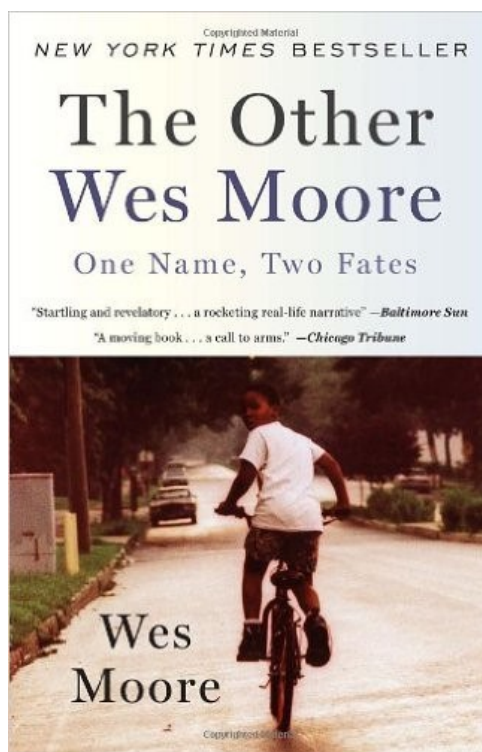
The Other Wes Moore by Wes Moore is the story of two African American boys growing up in Baltimore with similar histories and the same name, whose lives take divergent paths. The author, Wes Moore, is a NY Times best selling writer, social entrepreneur, political analyst, television host, writer, producer and decorated U.S. Army officer. The other Wes Moore is serving a life sentence for accessory to murder.

I served as a volunteer guardian ad litem for sixteen years. In my work as a court appointed advocate for abused and neglected children, I often encountered bright and engaging children in foster care or in group homes and wondered if they would rise above their circumstance or be pulled under by it. The loss of potential among these kids is incalculable. Suffice it to say that the way your life turns out is often a matter of luck, genetics, and environment.

Wes Moore is a compelling storyteller and he pulls the reader into the details of the subjects' lives in urban Baltimore and, for the author, Brooklyn, NY. The author has an educated and involved extended family and this helps move him forward, at times in spite of himself and the temptations of the street. If you've ever wondered how kids become drug runners, all is explained; as is the power of peer pressure among young men and the high cost of young parenthood.

The author, Wes Moore, manages to get expelled from an exclusive private school and is then sent, against his will, to a military academy. His description of his misery and failed attempts to run away are amusing, but poignant. In the end, Moore rises to the occasion and becomes an accomplished athlete and student.

The less fortunate Wes Moore's story is just as important and as expertly told. This is a fine book and what's more, a very honest one.



Calendar of Events

Tell Them Tuesday, Deb Morrow Tuesdays ongoing: @ Sen. Graham's office, 130 South Main Street, 7th Floor, Greenville, SC 29601 Main: (864) 250-1417, 12 - 1 pm on the street. May visit office before or after.

- **April 17** Big political announcement - Young Democrats of Anderson County. More info and speakers to be announced soon - watch the GCDP website. Clemson University's Madren Conference Center, 230 Madren Center Road, Clemson 29631. Doors open at 4:00pm, announcement at 5:00, reception to follow; GCDP is co-host.
- **April 19 & April 20, Furman University, Conference III: Understanding the Value of Science in an Uncertain World**

April 19, 7 pm: *Think You Know What You Know? Understanding Constraints on Human Perception and Reasoning.* Furman University, Daniel Recital Hall. Gil Einstein, Cinnamon Stetler, Beth Pontari (Department of Psychology)

April 20, 7 pm: *Seeing the Science in Our Lives: The Value of Basic and Applied Research.* Furman University, Daniel Recital Hall. John Quinn (Biology), Adi Dubash (Biology), Ruth Aronoff (Earth and Environmental Sciences)

- **April 20 GCDP County Executive Committee Meeting**, 5:30pm, Pleasant Valley Connection, 510 Old Augusta Road; all precinct leaders are invited.
- **April 21, Pleasant Valley Connection Golf Tournament**
This event will be held at the Bonnie Brae Golf Club located at 1116 Ashmore Bridge Road, Greenville. The Golf tournament will begin at 1:00 pm. The cost is **\$75.00 per person**. Also, \$100 sponsorship opportunities are available for all holes. This event will be a 2 Man Captain's Choice, with a hole in one prize of **\$7,500**. **April 15, 2017** is the deadline for sponsorship opportunities.
- **April 22, Noon-2PM March for Science Rally-Greenville**, One City Plaza, 103 N. Main Street, Greenville.
- **April 22, GCDP Breakfast Meeting** will be moved to **Upstate Circle of Friends** (29 Ridgeway Drive, 29605) . Our guest speakers are Greenville County Councilors Xanthene Norris and Ennis Fant to discuss current issues on the County Council agenda. Join us for a delicious breakfast buffet; donations welcomed.
- **April 28, Blue Palmetto Dinner**
The Medallion Conference Center, located at 7309 Garners Ferry Rd, Columbia, SC 29209. Tickets are \$125. Go to scdp.ngpvanhost.com/form/-2382984076129662976
- **April 29, 2017 South Carolina Democratic Party State Convention**,
At the Medallion Center in Columbia. Democrats from across the state will convene to conduct statewide party business that includes electing party leadership.

- **May 6 GCDP Huddle Meeting**, 10am to noon; please check GCDP website calendar or Facebook page or call GCDP HQ for meeting place. All are welcome to join in our direct action initiatives.
- **May 8 Democratic Women of Greenville County Monthly Meeting** - check GCDP website or contact GCDP HQ for details.
- **May 20 - NOTE DATE CHANGE - GCDP May Breakfast Meeting**, 8:30am; details in May issue of *The Bray*.
- **2017 Special Elections** There are currently vacancies in South Carolina's 5th Congressional District, State Senate District 3, and State House of Representatives Districts 48, 70, and 84. These vacancies will be filled by special elections this year. Democratic candidates have filed to run in the 5th Congressional District and State House Districts 48, 70, and 84.
 - **May 2** in the 5th Congressional District and State House Districts 48 and 70 the primary, if necessary, will take place.
 - **May 16** is the primary runoff (if no candidate receives more than 50% in the primary).
 - **May 30** General election for District 84 where only one Democrat filed so there will be no primary.
 - **June 20** is scheduled for the general election.

Did you participate in the Women's March? You just won a Freedom of Expression of Courage prize!

<http://theweek.com/speedreads/690394/did-participate-womens-march-just-won-freedom-expression-courage-prize>

The four hundred or so women from Greenville County who participated in The Women's March on Washington in January, along with nearly four million other women from across the globe have been honored with The PEN/Toni and James C. Goodale Freedom of Expression Courage Award from PEN America. Women's March organizers and participants were recognized for "galvanizing a potent global movement to resist infringements on the rights and dignity of women and many other groups."

GCDP Huddle Community Action Project, "Greenville Cares"

We have undertaken the food bank at St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church and will be doing an ongoing food drive to keep their food bank stocked with necessities.

The list of most needed items are: Canned meats, tuna and chicken, peanut butter, canned soups, dried pasta, canned spaghetti sauce, canned fruit, cereal (hot or cold), and canned or powdered milk.

There is a box at GCDP HQ, (1300-J East Washington Street), to accept donations from 9-3 Monday through Friday.

Greenville Young Democrats Youth and Law Enforcement Forum

The Greenville Young Democrats Youth and Law Enforcement Forum with Sheriff Will Lewis of the Greenville County Sheriff's Department and Chief Ken Miller of the Greenville City Police Department was held March 23rd at St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church. The forum was moderated by Eryn Rogers of WSPA-TV. Organizations that participated in the forum included; Greenville Black Lives Matter, Rehinge, GenderBenders, the Hispanic Alliance, and the Islamic Society.

More than 100 people attended and the event drew coverage from both The Greenville News and WSPA-TV.



<http://wspa.com/2017/03/23/greenville-young-democrats-host-youth-and-law-enforcement-forum/>

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2017/03/20/gcdp-hosts-youth-and-law-enforcement-forum/99410296/>

Thank you to the Democrats below who have contributed since the publication of the March Bray:

Allan Jenkins, Frances Moore, David Roop, and Ted Volskay.

Receiving *The Bray* via email saves the GCDP money in printing and postage - all valuable resources. If you are currently receiving a mailed copy and are willing to change to the email version, please email the Greenville County Democratic Party at headquarters@greenvilledemocrats.com with your name and contact information. We appreciate your help!

The Bray is published by the Greenville County Democratic Party, 1300-J Washington Street, Greenville, SC 29607, phone 252-5531; Kate Franch, chair; Roxanne Cordonier, editor; Vera J. Stang, production and layout; Linda Neely, Ann Funderburk and Karen Hahn, distribution. Know someone who would like to receive *The Bray*? It is available by email or traditional mail. Call HQ or email headquarters@greenvilledemocrats.com. Please mail contributions to GCDP headquarters. If your financial contribution to the GCDP is over \$100, please indicate profession or retired (required by SC Ethics Commission). Thank you.
